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# How the people of Simpleton acquired common sense



*illustrated by:*

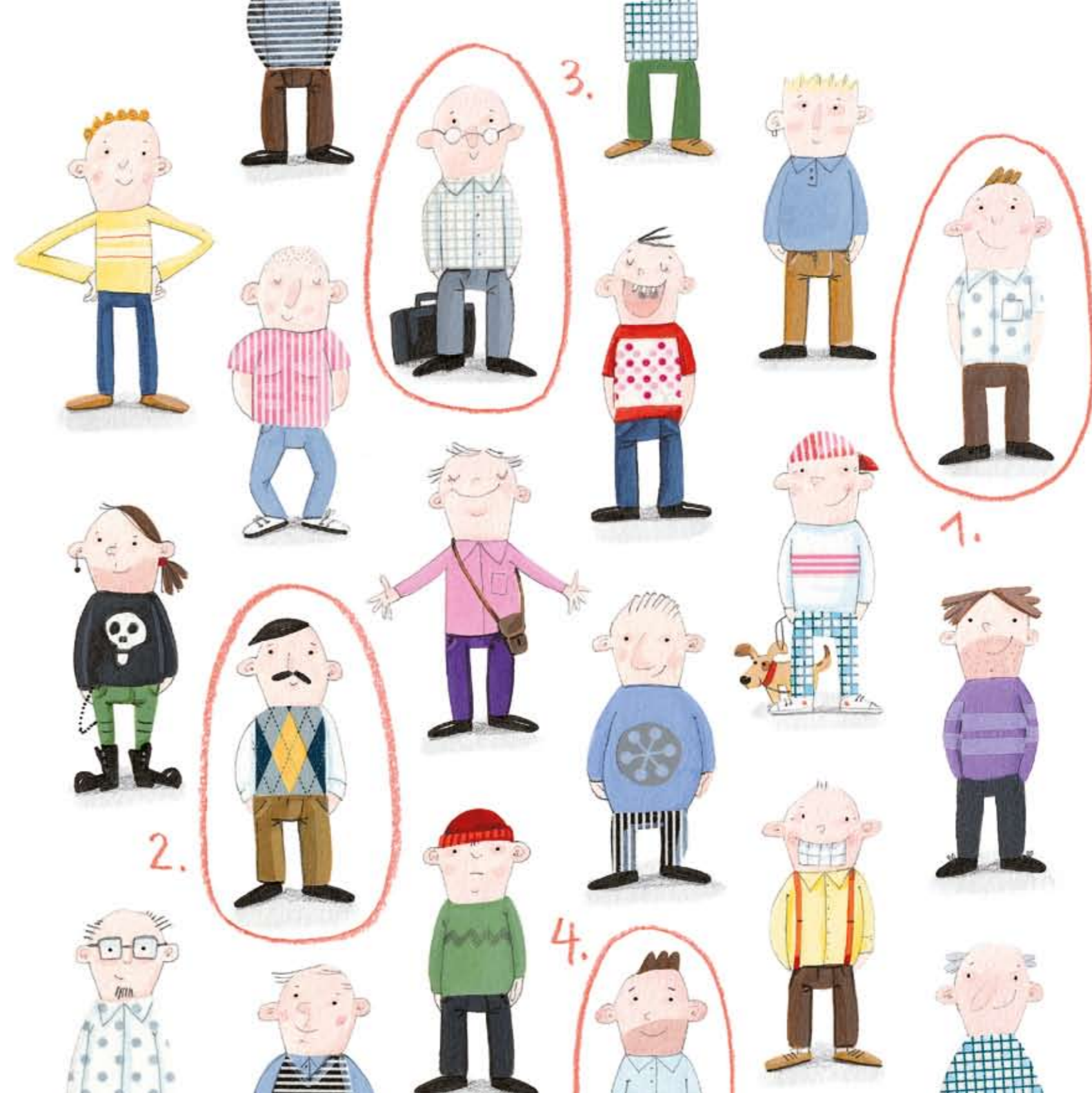
Ana Razpotnik Donati



Whoever came as a stranger to the village of Simpleton, always sang it praises:  
»Manure comes in abundance, and the corn bread is delicious; there is no shortage of rain and sun, and flies in summer! The people live as if in paradise - the only thing they have a shortage of there, is common sense.«



The people of Simpleton were happy to hear such praise. So they said:  
»We have all other goods in abundance; by God, we can also obtain  
common sense, however much is needed. Money can buy everything!  
Then the people of Simpleton will be without blemish.«



And so it happened that they heard rumours of a foreign town where there was a School of Hard Knocks, and that in the town there was so much common sense that they were selling it in barrels, just like sauerkraut. So they resolved to send four men there with a barrel to buy a bucketful of common sense, or two, depending on the price. The men went off in a cart decorated with tiny spruce trees, bells ringing merrily on the yoke.



Arriving into the town, they stopped at the first inn and announced themselves as having come from Simpleton to inquire where they could find some common sense for sale. But, they said, it has to be the proper stuff, and not too costly, otherwise they would not buy it.



The innkeeper was **amazed** - was it really possible that they had come from Simpleton? But what an honour for his house! And, they could not have stopped at a better place than here, for he would serve them common sense of the finest kind, and at half-price, too!



He invited them in and ordered his wife to take care of the fine gentlemen.



While the housewife was serving them food, the innkeeper and a hired man went off to catch a mouse, and put it in the barrel on the cart, corking the barrel up. And the men of Simpleton were quite happy with the bill, too - they had feared it would be much more costly!

